

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 SY-05

PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 /030 W

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O R 042330Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6596

INFO AMCONSUL BELEM

UNCLAS BRASILIA 5859

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BR, US

SUBJECT: DAVIS FAMILY CASE

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR CONTACTED JUSTICE MINISTER FALCAO WHO PROMISED FEDERAL POLICE INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT, PARALLELING STATE POLICE INVESTIGATION, AND ALSO SECURED PROTECTION FROM ARMY. AMCONSUL BELEM PROCEEDED TO AREA WHERE INCIDENT OCCURRED ON MORNING JULY 3, 1976, AND THEREAFTER CONTACTED EMBASSY OFFICER WITH DETAILS ON INCIDENT, CONFIRMING DEATHS OF BRUCE AND MALLORY DAVIS AND WOUNDING OF THEIR FATHER JOHN.

2. AMBASSADOR FINALLY TRACKED DOWN JUSTICE MINISTER FALCAO IN RIO AT 1815 JULY 3 TO INFORM HIM OF JULY 3 SHOOTINGS ON DAVIS LANDHOLDINGS. FALCAO SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH AUTHORITIES IN STATE OF PARA IMMEDIATELY. MORNING OF JULY 4 HE INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT DEATHS OF TWO DAVIS BROTHERS AND WOUNDING OF THEIR FATHER HAD BEEN CONFIRMED, AND ALSO CONFIRMED DESPATCH OF STATE OF PARA POLICE TO AREA. HE SAID HE HAD ORDERED REPRESENTATIVE OF FEDERAL POLICE IN PARA TO OPEN AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENTS, COMPLEMENTING THE INVESTIGATION ALREADY COMENCED BY STATE POLICE. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ARMY MINISTER AND THAT ARMY ELEMENTS WERE BEING MOVED TO DAVIS

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LANDHOLDING FROM NEAREST ARMY GARRISON AT IMPERATRIZ.

3. AT JULY 4 LUNCHEON FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT FALCAO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND THAT HE HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON INCIDENT.

4. AMCONSUL BELEM VISITED DAVIS LANDHOLDINGS NEAR PARAGOMINAS, PARA ON SUNDAY TO INVESTIGATE AND PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE HELP. CONSUL CONFIRMED THE DEATHS OF BRUCE AND MALLORY DAVIS. MR. JOHN DAVIS, SENIOR, WAS OPERATED ON (4 HOURS) BY DOCTOR AT NEARBY TOWN OF VILA RONDON ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY MEDICAL REPORTS HE HAS NINE PELLET OR BULLET HOLES IN HIS INTESTINES AND BULLET-NICKED SPINAL COLUMN, WITH NO FEELING FROM WAIST DOWN. HIS CONDITION IS SAID TO HAVE STABILIZED. WILL PROBABLY BE MOVED TO A BELEM HOSPITAL JULY 5. CONSUL ASCERTAINED THAT DAVIS' FAMILY NEXT OF KIN IN U.S. HAVE ALL BEEN INFORMED (BY DAVIS FAMILY) OF DEATHS. REMAINING DAVIS FAMILY MEMBERS PLAN TO STAY AT FAZENDA AND WILL CONTINUE OPERATIONS. BODIES OF BRUCE AND MALLORY DAVIS WERE TAKEN TO BELEM AND ARE BEING RETURNED TO VILA RONDON FOR INTERMENT.

5. ON NIGHT OF JULY 3 ARMY DESPATCHED 25 SOLDIERS TO AREA, 4 SOLDIERS ON DUTY AT DAVIS LANDHOLDING AND THE OTHERS IN RESERVE AT VILA RONDON. SOLDIERS WILL REMAIN UNTIL REPLACED BY POLICE. AT THIS TIME TWO SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.

6. AMCONSUL BELEM RELATED FOLLOWING DETAILS OF INCIDENT. DAVIS FAMILY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF A GROUP OF 30-60 INDIVIDUALS TEARING DOWN A BARRIER FENCE ERECTED ON DAVIS FAMILY PROPERTY. JOHN DAVIS, SR., BRUCE, AND MALLORY DAVIS PROCEEDED BY VEHICLE TO INVESTIGATE INCIDENT. UPON REACHING THE FENCE AREA, THE DAVIS' STARTED TO LEAVE THEIR VEHICLE. IT IS UNCLEAR AT PRESENT WHAT THE EXACT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WAS, BUT APPARENTLY GROUP OF TRESPASSERS OPENED FIRE WITH A MIXED ASSORTMENT OF SHOTGUNS AND OTHER FIREARMS. ALL THREE DAVISES WERE HIT AND WENT DOWN. THE TRESPASSERS UNCLASSIFIED

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APPARENTLY ASSUMED THAT MR. DAVIS, SR. WAS ALREADY DEAD, AND THEY PROCEEDED TO BEAT THE WOUNDED BRUCE AND MALLORY DAVIS TO DEATH WITH GUN BUTTS AND CLUBS.

6. AMCONSUL BELEM INFORMED EMBASSY BRASILIA THAT BOTH BELEM SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS CARRIED INCIDENT AS TOP HEADLINE ITEM UNDER HEADING OF "AMERICANS MASSACRED." EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

7. NEXT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM CONTAINS TEXT OF NOTE  
EMBASSY PROPOSES DELIVER TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON CASE.  
CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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